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Honorable Commissioner of  
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In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

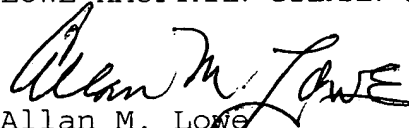
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Serial No. 09/843,144

Each English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allan M. Lowe".

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